

SAINT LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

BULLETIN

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Audubon Wildlife Films



Friday

April 6, 1979

Walter J. Breckenridge

"Migration Mysteries"

Director Emeritus of Bell Museum of Natural History at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Breckenridge received his undergraduate training at University of Iowa and Master's and doctoral degrees at University of Minnesota. His bird paintings and etchings are of great merit and have appeared in many ornithological works.

Walter Breckenridge has been on four arctic expeditions, going deep into Northwest Territory to one of the least studied areas. In addition to scientific and artistic accomplishments he is also an excellent wildlife photographer.

Friday, April 6 at The Ethical Society he will show his absorbing film on the migration of birds and efforts that men have made throughout the years to learn something about it. Why do birds migrate? How do they migrate? Why do some migrate when their relatives do not and how do they navigate?

Knowledge of migration has benefited from the works of a number of individuals. Lowery and Newman were able to estimate numbers of birds migrating at night by their flight across the face of the moon. Kramer, in a series of experiments with starlings, found the position of the sun determined their orientation, while Sauer, working with nocturnal migrants, found them to be guided by the stars; Rowan concluded the length of daylight hours- longer in spring and shorter in the fall- triggered the migration impulse. Dr. Breckenridge himself has studied the migration of eider ducks, and his experiences are related in this highly informative film.

This is the last of the 1978-79 Wildlife Film Series. Please join Dr. Walter Breckenridge and be welcomed by members of the board of directors following the film. Refreshments will be served.



Last call!



CRANE RIVER (Nebraska) AUDUBON TOUR

MARCH 23, Friday

8:00 a.m. departure from Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 1200 South Kirkwood Road. Designated area for your parking.
Luncheon at Stephenson's Apple Orchard Restaurant near Kansas City.
Afternoon rest stop. Arrival at Holiday Inn, Grand Island, Nebraska about 5:00 p.m.
A complimentary wine and cheese party before dinner.

MARCH 24, Saturday

8:00 a.m. breakfast with our guide, the outstanding bird-bander, Willie Luechen, who will take us on to private property for viewing the cranes. A visit to the Rowe Sanctuary to see the large population of white-fronted geese.
Jon Farrar of Lincoln, Nebraska, author and photographer of "Crane River" will be guest speaker Saturday night.

MARCH 25, Sunday

After breakfast another look at cranes and other wildlife. Board bus for Squaw Creek Wildlife Refuge and lunch. On the return trip to St. Louis there will be a "snack stop" near Boonville. Home arrival 6:30.

This is an all expense tour of three days and two nights, including transportation, meals, baggage landling in and out of hotel, accident and baggage insurance. Price is based on double occupancy. No refunds after March 10. RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED NOW

RESERVATION BLANK

Name

Address, zip code and telephone number

Check enclosed for \$150.00 per person

\$ _____

Return to Saint Louis Audubon Society
2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, MO. 63122

SAVE CLARKSVILLE ISLAND
(American Bald Eagles Threatened)

Clarksville Island is a 818 acre island located in the Mississippi River immediately downstream from Dam 24 at Clarksville, Missouri. The island has had no known history of occupation and has apparently been in a woodland condition since European settlement in the region.

The bottomland forest and internal and external waters provide habitat for many species of resident and migratory wildlife. Clarksville Island is utilized by three species of national concern: the bald eagle, the great blue heron and the great egret.

The island has the largest wintering populations of bald eagles on the Mississippi River adjacent to Missouri (80-150 and in some peak periods up to 200 eagles). The eagles use large trees on the northern portion of the island as perches.

The island provides one of the best spots along the Mississippi River where large numbers of these birds may be easily viewed in a manner which does not interfere with their activities. The island is among the top three eagle use areas occurring within the Mississippi flyway. The bald eagle is presently listed as endangered by Federal and Illinois classification.

The island also contains a heron-egret rookery which is utilized primarily by the great blue heron and irregularly by the great egret. The average recorded number of active nests occupied is 70. The island appears to be the only suitable location in the area where a rookery is likely to exist. Along the Mississippi between Minneapolis and the Ohio River the island's rookery is among the top 12 in size and is the largest rookery containing great blue herons within a 533 mile reach of the river providing habitat for approximately 20 percent of the breeding population in that reach. The great egret is listed as endangered by the State of Illinois.

The island provides habitat for approximately 150 species of birds; a large number of migrating waterfowl (more than 500) are reported to winter in the area. The island is also reported to be utilized by 100-200 white tailed deer and a variety of aquatic and riparian furbearers.

THREAT OF DESTRUCTION

Nature and Rate of Loss - The island has recently been purchased by an individual, who intends to utilize its resources for economic gain. Among the various activities planned are 1) construction of a boat dock and ferry loading facility, 2) development of camping and other recreational facilities, 3) construction of a frontier village for recreational purposes, 4) waterfowl hunting, 5) agriculture, and 6) extensive timber harvest. Item 1 requires a Corps of Engineers permit and has been opposed by a number of individuals and organizations. Items 2 and 3 would require public access and is, therefore, also dependent upon the attainment of a Corps of Engineers permit. However, 4, 5, and 6 require no approval by any organization or government agency, and therefore, may proceed at the owner's discretion.

The owner has already harvested one million board feet of timber from the island. It does not appear that this has seriously affected habitat conditions for eagles, herons and egrets, or any other wild-life species. However, the owner intends to continue to harvest, on a sustain-yield basis, a quantity of timber approximately one million board feet annually. This will significantly alter age class of the overstory and destroy the habitat values which make the island unique.

TIME IS CRITICAL. Within a year, the habitat conditions for eagles will be depleted. Heron and egret use could be totally eliminated. All habitat valued for these species could be lost within three to five years.

The owner is willing to sell the island for approximately \$500,000. A proposal was made by the Rock Island area office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to purchase the island under the Unique or Nationally Significant Wildlife Ecosystems Program. However, the project was not supported by the regional office in the twin cities. There are no funds in the FY 80 budget. The Nature Conservancy is interested in assisting in the acquisition of the island. However, they will not purchase it until guaranteed the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will then purchase it from TNC.

Letters of support to the Interior Department are needed to insure funding to save this significant part of the Mississippi River.

Send your letters to:

Mr. Cecil D. Andrus, Secretary
U. S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Mr. John W. Humke
Regional Vice President
The Nature Conservancy
328 East Hennepin Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

Copies to:

Mr. James Thompson, Governor of Illinois
Joseph Teasdale, Governor of Missouri
Also, your Senators and Congressmen

In your letters ask that the island be purchased under....UNIQUE or
NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT WILDLIFE ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM.



BETTY
WILSON



ALASKA WILDERNESS

Preserved or Developed?

December 1978 brought a bold act of environmental statesmanship. President Carter made a decisive move to preserve nearly 56 million acres of wild Alaska in national monuments. President Carter declared this land as monuments in an effort to keep all hands off of them until congressmen addressed the issue in 1979. Influential senators and the President, himself, say congressional deliberations to come will be the most significant environmental debate of the century; for what legislators decide will determine whether Alaska is carefully developed and its beauties preserved or whether special interest groups will disfigure it for all time.

"On one side of the coming debate stand those who cherish Alaska for its vast store of wealth - an estimated 12-49 billion barrels of oil (the U.S. consumes about 6 billion a year); 29-132 trillion cubic feet of gas; 130 billion tons of coal; and profitable amounts of 16 of the 18 minerals the Department of Defense calls 'critical' to national security. The people who oppose such preservation efforts as last year's bill (H.R. 39) want to develop such riches to the fullest. Their numbers include the entire Alaskan congressional delegation (Senators Ted Stevens and Mike Gravel, and Representative Don Young); the oil, mining and timber industries; and a great many of the Alaskans themselves.

"On the other side are those who believe that the unspoiled wilderness is itself a precious resource that should be preserved. Leading spokesmen for this group include Representative Morris Udall (D-Arizona) who introduced last year's House bill; Representative John Seiberling (D-Ohio), who shepherded the bill through the subcommittee; Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, who orchestrated the administration's monuments declaration; and most conservation groups - especially the Alaska Coalition, which is made up of more than two dozen environmental organizations that have banded together for the Alaska wilderness battle. They contend first, that industry has plenty of resources to exploit in areas outside the parks they have proposed, on state acreage and non-restricted federal land. They also feel that oil and minerals - which due to the nature of Alaskan ore deposits, would almost all require open-pit or strip mining - are not always the land's most valuable assets. 'There are those who think that the only worth to the land is an extractable resource,' says Andrus. 'But some people are willing to consider living resources. To those who say 'oil is where you find it,'

I say, caribou are where you find them, too. And unlike the oil, we know exactly where the caribou are."

In 1867 when Seward purchased his "folly" from the czar, the land rights of the natives were not specified. Native land rights were once again ignored when Congress granted Alaska statehood in 1958. Historically, when the federal government grants statehood, it gives some land to the new state government and keeps some land for itself. In Nevada, the United States owns 87% of the land; in Utah, 66%; in Idaho, 63%. Although Alaska stands fourth in this line with 60% of its land federally owned, its size is so enormous that the "leftovers" given to the state translate into 104 million acres, nearly five times the acreage granted to any other state.

Unknown land in Alaska has always been overseen by the federal government through the Bureau of Land Management, an agency so pro-industrial development, that Andrus labeled it, "Bureau of Livestock and Mining." The pro-development interests were especially outraged when, in early 1977, Congressman Udall introduced H.R. 39. This bill would put aside 121 million acres for wildlife habitat, wild and scenic rivers and national parks. The legislation passed the House, but hit a snag in the Senate. Industry claims that H.R. 39 would "lock up" an area the size of California in parks. Secretary Andrus pointed out that the land left open for exploitation would be twice the size of California. The complete Alaskan Congressional delegation is opposed to H.R. 39.

"One might think that Alaskans - the people who have actually seen the wilderness - would be the first to protect it from developers. Not so. While they appreciate the scenic beauties of the bush, many residents come to Alaska to share in the singular experience of building a state. Despite the low ratio of people to land - the population of the City of Buffalo, living in a state twice the size of Texas - most Alaskans live in towns. And the atmosphere in those towns is fiercely independent; they want to do things on their own - construct more roads, more rails, more buildings- conquer the wilderness. Anchorage is a displaced boomtown from the Old West, complete with saloons that still erupt with brawls." Fairbanks now has the singular distinction of being the most polluted city in the United States.

There are deeper questions at the heart of the Alaskan problem than how much land to develop and how much to preserve. Alaska must be protected from becoming another poverty stricken Appalachia. Some of the ill considered effects of the pipeline were a disaster. Congress must be persuaded to pass definitive legislation which will, for all time, include the historic effort to preserve these magnificent natural areas.

Note: A great deal of the material has been collected on the Alaskan land problem, but by far the most succinct and useful article appeared in The Saturday Review of Feb. 17, 1979. Much of the above material has been taken from this article and I recommend every member read this article in its entirety.



OBSERVATIONS

by Jack Van Benthuyzen



October 19 - As the Thursday group visited the rock wren at the wood-pile along Bend Road for the last recorded time, Yvonne Balsiger found the Hudsonian godwit also still present in the mud flats just further west. They also reported dunlins, vesper and savannah sparrows, and a rough-legged hawk later in the day.

October 23 - Bill Rudden and Phoebe Snetsinger found a flock of over 100 Franklin's gulls, a Bonaparte's gull, dunlins, sanderling, stilt sandpiper and a winter wren at the Mark Twain Refuge.

October 27 - The first pine siskin reported this fall was reported by Mickey Scudder at her home near Rockwoods Reservation.

October 28 - Tim Barksdale and Bill Rudden found an immature Thayer's gull, four fish crows and a very late sanderling at Chain of Rocks. Tim, also, found an adult Thayer's gull earlier in the day.

October 31 - While watching strings of geese fly across Swan Lake, Bill Rudden spotted an immature brant. He noted the white upper tail coverts and lack of white chin strap as well as what he described as a different style of flight. His excellent observation was later confirmed by a second view of the bird from Volcano Point. Bill was happy to share his find, for he again found it on the 3rd and the 7th of November to the delight of other accompanying birders. The Thursday group was also rewarded on November 9th as Bill again spotted it.

November 5 - The Barkers, George and Terry, found a female black-throated blue warbler in a flock of sparrows at Busch near the bridge just below the archery area. Not only a rare bird in this area, but even rarer at such a late date.

November 12 - I wanted to see the brant at Swan Lake and thought my luck was running good when I ran into Bill Rudden at Alton Dam. Although I talked him into riding along and he was very pleasant company, his phenomenal luck had run out- or it was my luck that had run out. We didn't find the brant, but we did see sixteen species of ducks, including over 20 hooded mergansers with as many as 11 in one flock and an early common goldeneye.

November 19 - Bob Healy heard a saw-whet owl calling at Forest Park before dawn and finally succeeded in locating the owl with a flashlight.

November 25 - Tim Barksdale found a black scoter across from Clifton Terrace on the Missouri side of the Mississippi River, and later found the white-winged scoter down at Alton Dam.

November 29 - Bill Rudden, Phoebe Snetsinger and Mary Wiese found a pair of evening grosbeaks and a Carolina wren at Elsay. This was the first fall report of the grosbeaks and a welcome report of the Carolina wren that has been so hard hit by the past two winters.

November 30 - Marge Richardson, while birding at Lake 33 at Busch Wildlife area, heard some swamp sparrows fussing. Upon further investigation she discovered a late long-billed marsh wren was the subject of concern.

December 1 - Phoebe Snetsinger found a peregrine falcon at Alton Dam.

December 2 - Bill Symes discovered a prairie falcon above Chautauga, Illinois on the River Road. This bird perched in the high cliffs for most of the remainder of the day to the delight of the "hot line" responding birders.

December 6 - I found a red-throated loon at Bend Road with several other common loons. Only two weeks prior, I had counted at least 14 common loons in this same long stretch of water.

December 7 - B. R. and P. S. (Bill Rudden and Phoebe Snetsinger...their names appear so often, I can save half the space by using initials) braved freezing rain to find a male old squaw and a female surf scoter at Alton Dame. Later in the day, three females joined the old squaw.

December 8 - Charlotte Cohen had a probable Baltimore-Bullock's oriole at her feeder in Ladue. This inter-breeding of these two former separate species as evidenced by this bird was one of the determining factors which led taxonomists to lump this species, and call it northern oriole.

December 9 - Mary Wiese and Jeff Wilson spotted a sandhill crane flying up from Alton Dam and then landed for a short time on the ice near some gulls. Five other birders at the dam also got to see the bird, as well as George and Terry Barker who spotted it in the air along highway 367 as it flew off. Two glaucous gulls, one at Alton Dam and one at Portage Des Sioux, were also reported for the day.

December 10 - The Halletts reported the first snow bunting of the year along Church Road in St. Charles County.

December 13 - Two large white swans were reported by the owners of Keller's Horseraddish Farm just west of highway 157 near Collinsville, Illinois. Mr. Keller thought them to be trumpeter swans because he had identified them by a picture in an encyclopedia. Dave Jones and I immediately responded and were graciously shown these two beautiful white swans. At first, there seemed to be a definite possibility that they were in fact trumpeter swans for we could not find evidence of the yellow spot at the base of the bill. However, Saturday Dick Anderson and Paul Bauer finally spotted the yellow mark with the aid of Paul's celestron telescope.

Trumpeter swans have been found recently in Missouri, but unfortunately the only certain field mark is the bugle-like call which is seldom heard away from breeding grounds.

December 18 - An immature male old squaw was seen by Bill Rudden, Ron Goetz, Phoebe Snetsinger and Mary Wiese at Alton Villa.

December 23 - A second year Harris's sparrow was discovered near Lake 21 at Busch Wildlife Area by Mary Wiese and Phoebe Snetsinger.

December 30 - Only five observers braved the early morning fog and light rain for the Saint Louis Audubon Christmas Count at Gray Summit. The first birders into the Arboretum found 13 turkeys sitting like apparent stumps in an open field. Hermit thrush, red-breasted nuthatch and long-eared owl (Mark Wessner) were included in the total for the Count of 41 species.

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR: 1978 was certainly a year of extreme numbers.

On the low side, the two past severe winters have greatly reduced the number of resident bluebirds, Carolina wrens and even the bob-white. On the high side, the number of winter finches from the north have greatly increased. Never before have so many redpolls, evening grosbeaks, snow buntings and longspurs been seen. However, not all northern finches were so common for white-winged and red crossbills were very scarce. Other species were also seen in almost unbelievable numbers like nireglossy ibis in Saint Charles County in early May, and large flocks of Franklin's gulls this past fall.

A new high total of 293 species were reported this past year by all of the area birders. But the most astonishing record is the list of 276 separate species as seen by Phoebe Snetsinger. Phoebe is certainly one of the most ardent and knowledgeable birders in the area. Her sharp eyes not only discovered many of the area's birds this past year, but her avid interest and spirit led her to share good finds with many others. Her new record for birds seen in one year surpasses the old record by eight species. She only missed 17 of the total species seen, and I personally know she tried for most of them. Her record will stand, I think, for a long time because it required a lot of time and perseverance.

The bird of the year had to be the rock wren found by Phoebe and Bill Rudden. Other good finds for the year were Missouri's first record of the house finch, hoary redpoll, white-faced ibis, glossy ibis, Louisiana heron, brant, black vulture, Swainson's hawk, great black-backed gull, yellow rail, black scoter, red-throated loon, sandhill crane, prairie falcon, western kingbird, Hudsonian godwit, laughing gull and red crossbill.

✓ JUNIOR AUDUBON NEWS ✓

by Beverly J. Letchworth ✓

KIDS-TALK



Have a listen to what some other kids say about the sport of hunting.

Dear Mrs. Letchworth,

I am writing to tell you how I feel about hunting. I am a girl so I think animals are cute. I have so many stuffed animals it's pitiful. I think hunting is a crime. And so that is how I feel about hunting.

Sincerely,

Julie Andersohn

from Manchester School

Dear Junior Audubon News,

I think hunting is a neat sport. I haven't gone hunting yet, but if I did go, I would like to hunt pheasant.

From,

John Pommer--age 9

Dear Mrs. Letchworth,

I go hunting and I like to hunt dove. I think hunting is a good sport.

From,

Steven Bull

Dear Audubon News,

I think hunting is a bad sport. I don't think it's nice to kill animals. I would not like to kill one. But I've heard of a good reason for hunting and that's if there is no hunting, there would be too many animals and they would eat too much food and then there wouldn't be enough food to feed them and they would die.

Maybe I will try hunting sometime. Maybe I'll go after squirrels, but I don't know if I could really shoot one.

From,

Billy Letchworth--Age 9

BOYS AND GIRLS--It has been estimated that not just hundreds but hundreds of thousands of unique animal life may vanish by the end of this century--just a little over 20 years away.

What do you think can be done to save our wild animal Friends? Do you think we can save them? Let me hear your ideas.

What would you do to save animal life from extinction?

Write me: Beverly Letchworth
Junior Audubon News
11826 Tescord
St. Louis MO 63128

Be sure to include your name and age. I'll print your letters in the next issue. Thanks!



Tramping through a small portion of woods, I came upon a dead animal. It was so destroyed and bloody I couldn't tell what it had been.

Suddenly from overhead came an explosive scream! Looking up I saw two red-tailed hawks perched on a tree limb, dipping their heads at me while they cried. Obviously I had disturbed their lunch. They had been feeding on the dead animal at my feet.

Slowly I backed up for I didn't want to scare the birds away. I had always wanted to see these buteos in the wilds close-up instead of far-away objects in the sky. But they would not stay just so I could look at them. With more loud screams they lifted, circled several times and flew away to a distant clump of trees where I couldn't see them. I was sure they would come back only if I left.

So I walked back along the trail
glad I had seen such splendid birds
even if it were for only a minute
or two.



UPBEAT

! Will you be vacationing in Washington DC this summer? If you are and if you have a specimen from nature you would like identified, take it to the Naturalist Center in the National Museum of Natural History. This Center was just opened in Dec. 1976 and is free to the public. The people who work there not only will tell you about your specimen but if they don't have anything like it in their museum, they may ask you to contribute it to their collection. What an honor!

! Want the facts about what you should do if you find an orphaned baby animal? Just send 25¢ to:
"Let It Be--Wild and Free"
National Wildlife Federation
Dept WF
1412 16th St. N.W.
Washington DC 20036
They will send you a 12-page color booklet about the subject.

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OFFBEAT

Here are some interesting facts that are fun to know . . .

- * When excited, the tiny shrew can breathe as fast as 850 times a minute, and its heart can beat up to 800 times a minute.
- * The wing span of the Wandering Albatross is 11½ feet maximum.
- * If you see tiny specks of white moving about in the brush at night, you are probably watching the eyes of wolf spiders.
- * Frogs and toads spend the winter sleeping in the bottom mud of ponds and lakes.
- * Bald Eagles can live to be 50 years old.



BETTER PICTURE GUIDE

by- Lee F. Mason

It is NOT too early to think about vacation and summer photography. Especially if you have moth-balled your camera over the winter; if you expect to buy a better camera than the one you have had for sometime; or if you are investing in your first camera.

When we don't use a piece of equipment for a while it may have the strangeness of a new item; when we move from a simple camera to a more complicated "light box" there are some new things to learn; and if it is our very first camera - there are a lot of things to be informed about.

Before you embark on a vacation or trip of any kind where you expect to use a camera, be sure you have familiarized yourself with your camera... know how it handles, at least run a test roll through it to see what it will do, and don't forget to record the make and serial number with your insurance papers - most Home Owners Policies cover a stated amount that includes photographic equipment (check your policy).

Once you have your camera in hand there are a number of ways to insure better pictures, regardless of what kind of equipment you may have. Be sure your camera is loaded. When taking a picture hold your camera steady, hold your breath and squeeze the button slowly. If yours is a box camera be sure you don't get too close to your subject. Most cameras do not focus closer than six feet. When photographing people or pets in open sunlight you have to contend with harsh shadows so for better pictures of this kind shoot in open shade.

Every better picture has a subject (a focal point); tells a story; has unity (complete in both idea and presentation). Arrangement, camera angle, and background are part of your composition and are important in drawing the viewer's eye to what you want to emphasize.

Most of you will be taking pictures in color. Today these films can record the most vibrant and the most delicate of colors, and with the use of flood lights or flash equipment you can take color shots around the clock. Exposure is all-important with color film. If you do not use an exposure meter, follow the directions on the paper that comes with your film. Keep in mind that shadows and dark lines will be darker on your film than they appear to your eye.

Don't cut your picture in two by putting the horizon across the middle. Keep it about 1/3 of the way up or down. A picture has much more life if the subject of the photograph is placed other than squarely

in the middle. Divide your scene into thirds, up and down and across. The points where the lines cross are good places to set your subject. Think of your picture sides as walls so you won't have your subject running, walking into, facing or even looking directly at one of the walls. Let your subject be coming into the picture area and not leaving it. When photographing something that is suggesting sharp angles (think of the letters T, Y, L, V, N, and Z) you can create moods of rigidity, strength, and sharpness. Roads, streams, paths curving in an S or C can create a feeling of quietness, gentleness, and flowing motion in your pictures. Dramatic pictures can be made by the light patterns created by strong shadows. Horizontal lines such as roads, walls, etc., are far more interesting if pictured at an angle so that they run diagonally. Be especially careful not to tilt your camera when photographing a lake, pond or water course - you don't want your picture looking as if the water was spilling out!

WANT TO POLISH YOUR PHOTOGRAPHIC SKILLS??

Join in the activities of the Nature Photography Section of the Saint Louis Audubon Society. To be put on the mailing list of the VIEWFINDER (calendar of events and meetings of the group) send your name, address and zip to Audubon Photography, 8410 Madeline Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63114.

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the months of October through June (no meeting in January) at 7:45 p.m., in the auditorium of Clayton Federal Savings and Loan, Elm and Lockwood, Webster Groves. Everyone is welcome - we'll be looking for you.



"I understand they kill for fun, tend to overrun an area, slay cattle and sheep, gather in packs and howl 'til dawn, and sometimes mate for life."

RAPTOR PROJECT IN THIRD YEAR

by- Bill Malloy

Located in a valley at Tyson Research Center in southwest St. Louis County, the Raptor and Propagation Project began its third year of operation last January. Here founder and director, Walt Crawford and ten volunteers not only wage a daily struggle to rehabilitate and return to the wild as many birds of prey as possible, but also conduct a variety of research projects, including a breeding program on species which can't be released.

The struggle begins with each bird received, which could be any time, day or night, from state and federal conservation agents or concerned citizens. The bird first receives a thorough examination. If found to be uninjured or temporarily stunned, it is quickly released.

Birds requiring minor surgery are treated at Tyson, if major surgery is necessary the raptor is taken to the Jefferson County Junior College Veterinary Clinic. Sometimes in response to a phone call Walt or a volunteer will retrieve an injured or sick bird.

Depending on its condition after treatment, the bird is placed in the appropriate holding facility. The Raptor Project has five buildings, a laboratory, six holding mews, a flight cage and an isolation cage. Every day someone will spend two to five hours feeding, watering, giving medication or performing a variety of tasks to meet the bird's needs. If extensive care is needed, Walt or a Project member will take it home.

Once rehabilitated, the bird is released, but just not anywhere. The staff tries to select an area that closely resembles its natural habitat for that time of year. Those unable to be released are kept and placed in a captive breeding program. Many are physiologically sound specimens and are good for breeding projects as they are able to copulate without assistance. In some cases artificial insemination will be required and in some instances, birds are shipped to other captive breeding programs.

At this time the project has over 60 birds, including bald and golden eagles, red-tailed, red-shouldered, broad-winged, rough-legged and sharp-shinned hawks, goshawks, kestrels and barred and screech owls. Daily care of these birds demands a lot of dedication and Walt Crawford readily admits the Project would fail without volunteers.

The Raptor Projects include providing care for injured, ill or orphaned raptors and releasing those possible back into the wild; providing learning opportunities in care and treatment of raptors; educational materials regarding the value of raptors in our environment; gathering of scientific information; wild census study of red-shouldered and Cooper's hawks, and a comparative study of nesting success between ecological control areas like Tyson to non-ecological controlled areas.

No government or private funding is being received at this time. Pens were built from donated materials and equipment and supplies have been donated. For information or tours of the area call Walt Crawford after 6:00 p.m. at (314) 225-3152.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

For the past several years members of the Board of Directors of the Saint Louis Audubon Society have discussed with National Audubon mutual problems of offering the best possible service to members.

Now we would like your help. Please complete this Membership Survey and return in the envelop furnished. Your answers will help chart the course, establish priorities and bring to you the projects and programs you wish.

1. How long have you been a member of the St. Louis Audubon Society?
 ___ 0-4 years. ___ 5-10 years. ___ Over 10 years.
2. How did you become a member? ___ Friend. ___ Screen Tour. ___ Moved to
 into area as National member. ___ Local literature. ___ National
 literature. (Check one only.)
3. Do you read most of AUDUBON magazine? ___ Generally. ___ Occasionally.
 ___ Seldom. ___ Never.
4. How important are these local services to you?

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Little</u> <u>Importance</u>
A. Local birding trips such as Forest Park walks, etc.	___	___	___
B. Educational Bus Tours	___	___	___
C. Local environmental efforts	___	___	___
D. Annual Eagle Count	___	___	___
E. Wildlife Film Series	___	___	___
F. Local BULLETIN and notices of important events	___	___	___
G. Annual Spring & Christmas Counts	___	___	___
H. Photography group	___	___	___
I. Project Soar	___	___	___
J. Scholarship program	___	___	___
K. Establishment of local sanctuary	___	___	___
L. Other _____	___	___	___
5. How important are these National Services to you?

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Little or No</u> <u>Importance</u>
A. AUDUBON Magazine	___	___	___
B. National Audubon Sanctuaries	___	___	___

- | | <u>Very
Important</u> | <u>Somewhat
Important</u> | <u>Little
Importance</u> |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| C. National Audubon governmental activities | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| D. Direct mail information on books, china, silver, etc. | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| E. Other _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
6. Would you be interested in a local membership at possibly \$10. per year retained locally to increase local services? This would not entitle you to AUDUBON magazine or National membership.
 7. What additional activities would you like St. Louis Audubon Society to undertake?
 8. What present activities would you like St. Louis Audubon to drop?
 9. What additional activities would you like National Audubon to undertake?
 10. What activities would you like National Audubon to drop?

11. The Conservation Federation of Missouri has served for many years as an umbrella group with respect to conservation issues. For several years your Board has made a contribution to affiliate you with this group. Recently the cost has increased to \$1.00 per member and the Board is considering discontinuing this relationship by Board action. However, it believes that the continued strength of the Conservation Federation is important to the general well being of environmental issues within our state. One possibility would be to allow our members to contribute an extra dollar annually for the express purpose of affiliated membership with the Missouri Conservation Federation.

Would you like an opportunity to contribute a dollar a year to the Conservation Federation of Missouri for these purposes?

_____ Yes _____ No

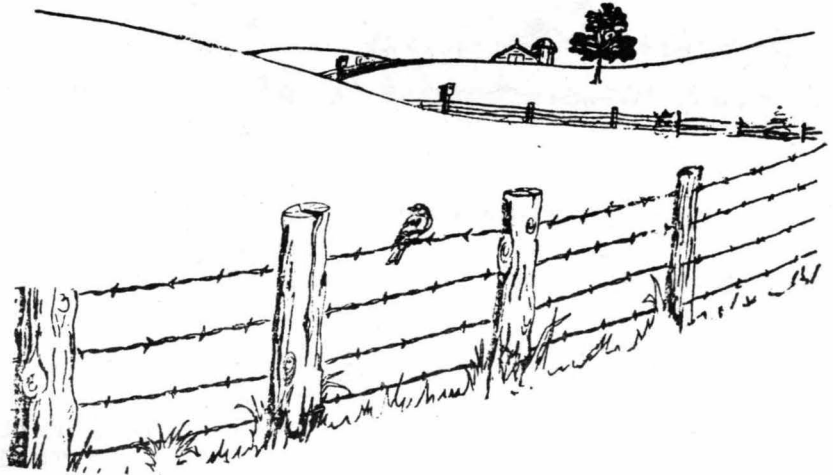
PLEASE COMPLETE THIS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY AND RETURN. You do not need to sign your name if you do not wish to do so. We will greatly value your comments and be governed by your wishes. THANK YOU.

NATURE OUTING AND WORKSHOPS

SUNDAY, MAY 6,

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Members of the Saint Louis Audubon Society and Webster Groves Nature Study Society are indeed fortunate and privileged to once again be invited by Burrell and Ruby Pickering to participate in a nature outing and workshops at Sunny Ranch.



Sunday, May 6, we have been invited to spend the day with the Pickerings. Plan to arrive after 9:00 a.m.. Activities aimed at both the novice and the expert, and will be conducted by experienced field naturalists in nature workshops. Studies will be made in the fields of birds, insects, pond life, wildflowers, trees and geology. The Pickerings will erect signs identifying the name of the leader and the area in which each workshop will be held.

Hikes of varying length can be made over the well marked trails maintained by the Pickerings and the Nature Museum with the fine collections will be open.

As the March winds blow and the April showers fall, dream of this wonderful treat that awaits you in early May. What better way to welcome spring! Bring lunch and join in a day of fun, and a great learning experience.

DIRECTIONS: West on I-70 to Foristell exit, a distance of about 32 miles west of Lindbergh. Turn left and head south on highway T for 5 miles to highway M. Drive for 1 1/2 miles to highway O. Turn left on O and drive another 2 miles to the Sunny Ranch gate. The gate is bright red and marked with a pole sign. Enter and drive 1/2 mile to the parking area. Here Burrell and Ruby will warmly welcome you and share with you for the day their famous Sunny Ranch.

IN CASE OF EXTREMELY INCLEMENT WEATHER THE ALTERNATE DATE IS SUNDAY, MAY 20TH. IF IN DOUBT CALL 965-8642.

AUDUBON SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

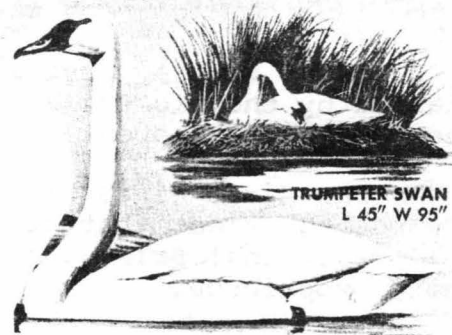
Saint Louis Audubon Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Monday, May 21 1979 in the Sesquicentennial Room, Busch Memorial Center, Saint Louis University.

PATRICIA D. DUNCAN, author and photographer, will be the guest speaker. Her new book, Tallgrass Prairie - The Inland Sea is an extravagantly beautiful volume created by an artist to reflect the amazing diversity and richness of the region. Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall hails Duncan as the prairie's "authentic voice" in the tradition of John Muir and Rachel Carson. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is high in praise of the "lovely photographs and thoughtful text", and Outdoor America says, "it is a tribute to its author, to those who have worked so hard to effect a Tallgrass Prairie National Park, and to the prairie itself, an important national resource."

This is the first appearance of Patricia Duncan in the St. Louis area with her beautiful and extraordinary slide program. However, this is the return of a native daughter for she was born in Webster Groves and graduated from Washington University.

Mark your calendar now and plan to attend this outstanding dinner meeting. Notices will be mailed giving full details.

DEATH OF THE SWANS



Three of the most magnificent birds ever to grace Missouri's skies were shot to earth by lawbreakers in December, and law enforcement agents would like to find out who did it.

Someone shot the rare trumpeter swans, a probable family group, at Thomas Hill Reservoir. A fourth swan, the more common whistling swan, was found dead in Saline County.

One of the birds shot at Thomas Hill was banded, an adult female. The other two were immature birds and probably offsprings of the mature bird. The adult was one of a group of 57 cygnets transplanted in the Lacreek Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota in 1960 from Red Rocks Lake Refuge in Montana. It had been thought for years that the trumpeters might migrate through Missouri, but the last authenticated report of a trumpeter swan in Missouri was recorded in 1907.

Watch for an interesting article by Dave Jones on the return of the trumpeter swans to Missouri which will appear in the Bulletin soon.

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Beverly Latchworth
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ILLUSTRATIONS
Herb Brammeier, Jr.
4647 Lee, 63115

BOARD MEETINGS-
Third Tuesday of each month



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular	\$18.00
Family	21.00
Sustaining	30.00
Supporting	50.00
Contributing	100.00
Donor	250.00
Life	1000.00

These dues cover membership in both the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society, and include subscription to Audubon Magazine and St. Louis Audubon Bulletin.

THE AUDUBON WAY: A BETTER WORLD FOR MAN AND NATURE

We welcome your membership. Your support is needed for the continuation of important projects of the Society. Please mail this blank with your check to the local office, St. Louis Audubon Society, 2109 Briargate Lane, St. Louis, MO. 63122. This is the only way we receive full financial credit.



Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State and zip _____

Chapter Choice #2602

___ \$18. individual

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JOIN NOW

Your membership supports important projects of the St. Louis Audubon Society.

SCHOLARSHIPS . . . scholarships are given area youth leaders to Audubon Camps located in Wisconsin, Maine, Wyoming and Connecticut.

SOAR . . . Save Our American Raptors, a grant-in-aid to Missouri University-Columbia, is a program of great ecological importance.

SANCTUARY . . . plans are being made for a nature sanctuary for protection of native fauna and flora and a nature learning center.

TOURS . . . all expense tours to important nesting, feeding and resting sites for birds and wildlife, Mingo, Squaw Creek, Crab Orchard, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Florida.

BULLETIN . . . bi-monthly **BULLETIN** features articles of local interest, where to look and who to call for birding, a page for junior readers, coming events and a calendar of important dates.

PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION . . . monthly meetings November through June with recognized teacher-photographers. Special mailings to members.

WILDLIFE FILMS . . . 5 outstanding nature films by nationally known photographer-naturalists given free of charge.

WE WELCOME YOU TO MEMBERSHIP
Martin Schweig, Jr., President

Saint Louis Audubon Society
2109 Briargate Lane, 63122
(314) 965-8642